

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of :  
KITCHEN, et al. :  
Application No: Unassigned (Rule 53(b)) : Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Continuation of Appl. Serial No. :  
09/867,587 filed May 31, 2001. : Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: Concurrently herewith :  
For: BILL AVAILABILITY NOTIFICATION AND BILLING INFORMATION REQUEST

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is directed to the accompanying 37 CFR 1.53(b) application, which is a continuation of the above referenced application. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE TITLE**

Please amend the title to read "DUAL MODE ELECTRONIC BILL AVAILABILITY NOTICING AND PAYMENT".

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:  
--This application is a continuation of pending Application Serial No. 09/867,587, filed May 31, 2001, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998, now United States Patent Number 6,289,322.--